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OPENING OF THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

BY

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The opening of Indian country has continued from Colonial days to the present. Usually it has resulted from force and treaty, the strong dispossessing the weak. As a result, the Red man has, in general, moved frontierward, ahead of industrial waves, remaining for a longer time only on reservations set aside for tribes. The Indian's struggle even on these reserves has been a losing one, resulting largely from war, disease, and the cupidity of whites. History shows that Indian life and Indian institutions have not prevailed against the white man's civilization and commerce.

GATHERING THE TRIBES.

The Indian Territory and Oklahoma together form a focal point in the Indian history of the United States. There, fully twenty-five tribes were concentrated from reservations in various States, coming from the north, east, south, and west. Plate I shows the distribution of the leading tribes. Most Indians entered the Territory by choice and treaty, yet there were cases of coercion and rank injustice on the part of the National Government and States. Of the smaller tribes, the Delawares, from the banks of the well-known river of the same name, were forced westward; placed on a reservation in Ohio in 1789; moved to Missouri about 1818 and to the Cherokee Nation in 1866, receiving allotments in severalty. The Shawnees came by a circuitous route, extending from their old "Kickapoo" home in Wisconsin to Tennessee, the Carolinas, New York, Ohio, and then to the Territory, where

Tribes and
Reservations.

they abandoned tribal relations in 1854. The Ottawas lived in Michigan; the Miamis in Wisconsin; the Peorias along the southern end of Lake Michigan, and the Modocs in Oregon and California. In their early history the Senecas, a warring member of the Iroquoian Confederacy, were strongly established in Western New York. The Shawnees lived in the region of Virginia; fought the Cherokees and Chickasaws; were forced westward to Ohio and Kentucky by whites, and finally incorporated in the Cherokee Nation. This tribe is best remembered by the Tippecanoe Campaign and the hero, Tecumseh.

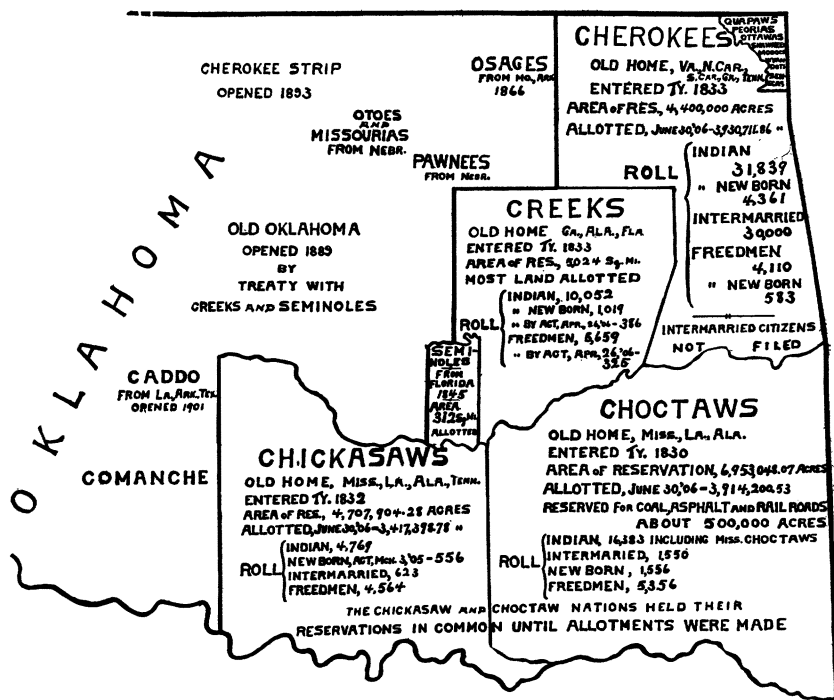


PLATE I.

Quapaws and other Siouan tribes, the Kaws, Osages and Poncas migrated from the east at an early date. This stock separated in the Ohio Valley, the Quapaws going to Tennessee and Arkansas and the other tribes to the north-west. Later the remnant of each tribe was taken to Oklahoma and the Territory.

The five civilized tribes—the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Chickasaws and Choctaws, all of Muskogean stock, except the first named (which is Iroquoian)—were once powerful nations in the south-eastern part of the United States. They were caused to enter

their reservations at times denoted by Plate I. Summing up, we may say that the Territory has been the dumping-ground for remnants of tribes which formerly were located on reservations in States. Viewed in another way, it is a restricted area of an Indian country formerly large and little known. Most of the Indian Territory tribes are well known in history. Some of them strongly opposed our policy and fought us as early as Revolutionary times.

As we find them now, not many of the so-called Indians are full bloods. Most of them evince amalgamation with whites, being three-fourths or less Indian. Persons known as quarter-breeds or less would pass readily as white in the States. Many of the mixed breeds are large and stately in appearance. According to standards in the Territory, any one who can prove that he or she contains even a trace of tribal blood is an Indian. The Cherokees mixed readily with whites, and the Creeks somewhat with negroes.

Each of the Five Civilized Nations had a form of government modelled after a State. Men elected to office usually were physically strong and morally the best in the tribe. The simple social conditions did not require the enactment of many laws.

Tribal
Government.

A marked difference of opinion prevails as to the success of the governments of the civilized tribes, yet evidence shows a greater degree of success than is usually thought. The Seminoles, at least, had an ideal government at one time. Justice was assured and crime punished so long as the Indians and their freedom were left alone. All lands in these Nations were held in common, occupancy giving the only title. At first this system of tenure worked no hardship, but it proved to be a great weakness with the incoming of whites. Schools and academies were established and supported; annuities and taxes were collected from non-citizens.

The present population of the Territory presents a cosmopolitan appearance. Not all who reside there are citizens, a large majority being white intruders from many sources. The roll of citizenship includes Indians, freedmen and intermarried citizens, the last named being the adopted citizens and the freedmen the Indians' former negro slaves and their descendants. Negroes were given freedom and tribal rights at the close of the Civil War. The war and emancipation wrought irreparable disaster to the civilized tribes.

WHITE INTRUDERS.

White men have entered the Territory for various purposes. Beautiful Indian women attracted a few, while fish, game, forest, agricultural and mineral resources influenced many. As a result

the foreign population increased rapidly, and the Nations soon contained more whites than Indians. Tribal governments could not check the intrusion and wrongdoing of the whites. Conditions grew gradually worse. "The strong oppressed the weak and the white man began to enrich himself at the expense of the Indian. The white and mixed bloods monopolized the productive land, often holding many thousands of acres, while the stolid full-bloods went half-starved in the mountains and forests. Fugitives from justice swelled the non-citizen population; crime was practically unrestrained, and robbery and murder occurred with alarming frequency, until it became unquestionably the duty of Congress to take a hand and devise some means to restore to order the chaotic condition which existed."*

GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

At no time has our Government relinquished all control over her Indian people, the policy being one of as little interference as possible consistent with the best interests of all concerned. During the early history of the Indian country, forts and military roads were established and maintained. In this connection, old Fort Gibson, near Muskogee, is one of the best known. It dates back to the first quarter of the past century and has a remarkably interesting history. For a time after their installation in the Territory, tribal governments succeeded reasonably well, but the changes ushered in by the incoming whites forced our Government to assume a larger measure of control. "The first important step"* taken in this direction was that of March 3, 1893 (27 Stat. L., 645) creating the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, better known as the Dawes Commission, from its first chairman, the late Senator Henry L. Dawes." The Commission undertook to change the system of land tenure and to introduce such other innovations as would result in the final disappearance of tribal governments and the creation of a new State.

It met strong opposition at first—both by Indians who wished to retain their tribal lands, manners and customs, and by influential non-citizens whose financial interests would suffer with the change. Finally, after presenting the plan to the tribes with indifferent success, the Government took a firm stand and forced the obstinate Nations into line. It was then that the Commission's labours began. To suppress the sale of intoxicating liquors; rectify inequalities; prepare rolls of citizenship; appraise land, forest and improvements; and to make allotments proved to be

^{Dawes}
Commission.

* Bixby, Report of Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes, 1906.

a very large, though necessary, undertaking. This Board of Commissioners continued to act until 1905, when a Commissioner was appointed to finish the work preparatory to the establishment of the new State. That the work of the Commission and Commissioner has been of the highest order is evidenced by results—this in the face of strong criticism and opposition. Allottees have received full consideration and protection which in some cases seems to have resulted in their practice of fraud. Most difficulties have arisen from the sale of lands by allottees. Under the law, freedmen, if of age, may sell that part of their land which is designated as surplus. Adult Indians can sell their surplus after the removal of restrictions by the Department of the Interior.

The Indian Territory of to-day is a most interesting field for study. It affords unusual opportunities for research by the geographer, economist, sociologist, and historian.

PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGIONS.

In this connection, I will briefly describe the country in which the Indians live. Not much was known of the place until 1896 and later. However, the preparation for the allotment and opening has been complete, more so than elsewhere in the United States. All of the surface, except a few square miles in the north-east corner, has been topographically surveyed and mapped by the United States Geological Survey, which department, also, has studied and described the structure and mineral resources. There is much literature of this kind; it includes topographic maps, five Geologic Atlases, a Gazetteer by Gannett, Professional Paper 31, and papers in various Bulletins and the Annual Reports.

The Territory is more diverse than is usually supposed. Its relief ranges between 300 and 3,000 feet in elevation, the highest and lowest areas being in the Choctaw Nation. The mean annual rainfall decreases from about 50 inches on the east to 30 inches on the west. Drainage is by the Arkansas, Red, Canadian and the Wichita rivers, of which the first named promises to assume importance in transportation. The structure is more varied than that of most States; series of strata, nearly horizontal in position, uplifts, normal folds, overthrust faults, and granitoid structures represent some of the larger features. Fully sixty per cent. of the land is timbered with species of oak, pecan, hickory, walnut, hackberry, ash, elm, sycomore, cottonwood, maple, pine, and other kinds. Forests occur on mountainous areas, valley bottoms and scarps. The largest pine forest is in the Ouachita Region. Black walnut, sycomore, elm,

maple and cotton-woods grow mostly on alluvial lands; oaks extend from low lands out onto stony and sandy uplands. Vine-covered trees are a noticeable feature along the lower Arkansas and Red River bottoms.



FIG. 1.—VINE-COVERED TREES ALONG THE ARKANSAS RIVER.

Mr. Joseph A. Taff,* of the U. S. Geological Survey, has divided the Territory into five physiographic regions; the Ozark, Prairie Plains, Arkansas Valley, Arbuckle and the Ouachita Mountain Region.

The well-known Ozark Region † of Arkansas and Missouri extends into the eastern part of the Cherokee Nation (Plate II). The rock formations in this part of the Territory lie in a nearly horizon-

* Geologic Atlases 74, 76, 98, 122 and 132.

† Geologic Atlases 122 and 132.

tal position and consist of limestones, sandstones, and Ozark Region. shales, which form an elevated but deeply-dissected plain.

Certain scarps with elevations of 800 to 1,500 feet are called mountains. The topography is a product of excessive erosion, in which weak strata give gradual slopes and the hard ledges outcrop as rock terraces. At places, the simple structure is modified by

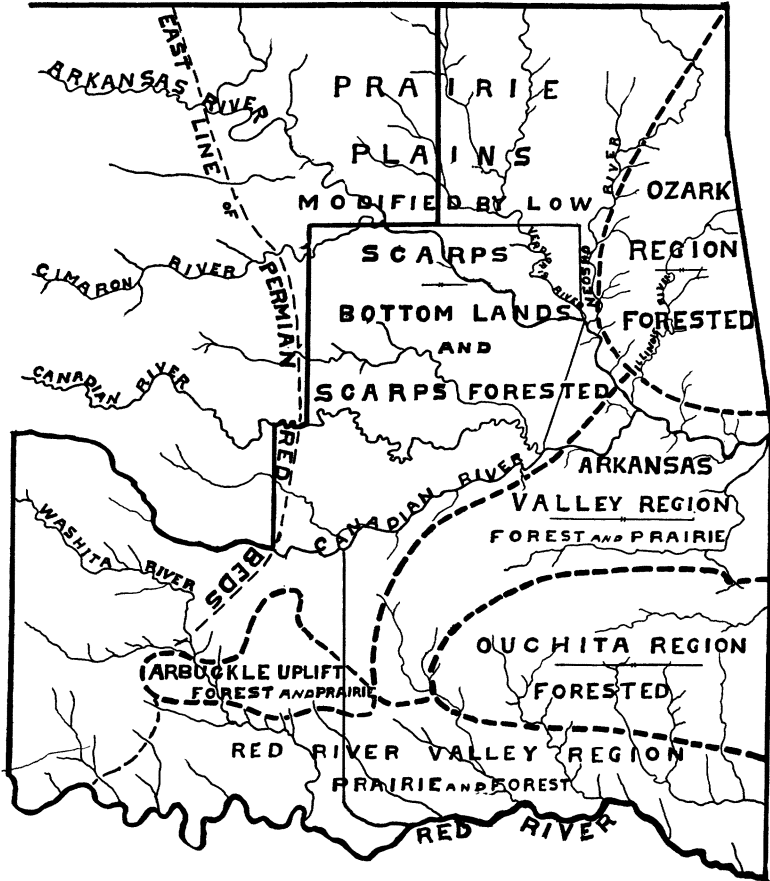


PLATE II.—TOPOGRAPHIC REGIONS.

faulting. In point of age the formations belong to the Ordovician, Devonian, and Carboniferous Systems. The Mississippian rocks, a series of the Carboniferous, have largest areal distribution, and are flanked on the west and south by members of the Pennsylvania series. The soil is thin and stony, at places flinty, but here and there occur small patches of desirable land both on the bottom and upland.

The numerous streams contain fish, and nearly all of the region is forested except where land is cleared for farming. Game—such as the quail, turkey, squirrel, and deer—are found at places. With few exceptions, roads are mere trails, whose positions are controlled by surface features. Travel is mostly on foot and horseback, waggons being used less than in smoother regions. The mountain areas, with their streams, fish, forest, and game, constitute an ideal home and retreat of the full-blood, who is the principal inhabitant. It is here that one may view the home of an Indian. Usually his house is small; near-by is a spring, and not far away a small patch of corn. The Indian life is simple and close to nature. Negroes are not welcome in “these parts.”

The Prairie Plains are a broad and poorly-defined region* which extends across the Territory from north-east to south-west, lying to the west of the Ozark, Arkansas Valley, and Arbuckle Regions. It is floored by thick beds of Pennsylvania and Permian rocks, which form a broad stratum plain, the strata having a low, westward dip. The rocks are mostly shales, limestones, and sandstones. The surface slope is eastward, the elevation ranging usually between 600 and 1,000 feet. The plain is modified by broad valleys, low mounds, and rather prominent scarps. Soils vary with structure, being for the most part of residual origin. The Permian red bed-soils, so characteristic of Oklahoma, come in at places along the west border of the Territory, especially in the Chickasaw Nation. Rough lands and bottom lands are timbered; the undulating uplands and upland valleys are covered with broad expanses of prairie.

The Arkansas Valley Region* is floored with Carboniferous rocks, mostly of Pennsylvanian age, which flank the Ozark and Ouachita regions. A series of broad folds is the salient structural feature. These folds have been reduced by erosion, resulting in the formation of prominent land forms, such as the Sansbois and Rattlesnake Mountains. The larger rivers occupy deep valleys, whose bottoms contain sandy, alluvial soils. The upland soils correlate in kind with the shale, sandstone, and limestone formations from which they were formed, and with the degree of dissection. The region is mostly timbered. Good fishing and hunting may be had at places.

The Arbuckle Region† is one of the best-defined uplifts in the United States. It rises to an elevation of 1,400 feet, which is

* Geologic Atlas 132.

† Taff, Professional Paper 31, and Geologic Atlas 98.

about 600 feet or more above the surrounding country. It is a reduced, oblong, flattened dome, the major axis of which extends in



FIG. 2.—AN OVERTHRUST FAULT IN THE ARBUCKLE UPLIFT.

a northwest-southeast direction. In this region one may study within short compass splendid sections of rocks belonging to each series, from the Archæan to the Permian. Normal folds and over-

thrusts are features. The Wichita River flows through the mountains, forming well-defined water gaps near Dougherty. The surface is covered with prairie and forest, whose distribution in kind varies with the geological formations. The varied conditions for plant and animal life correlate with the large number of species present.

In The Ouachita province, rocks are mostly of Ordovician and Carboniferous age. They consist of shales, sandstones, and limestones, which show faulting and prominent folding at places. A succession of east and west trending folds constitutes a salient feature. The Region is much dissected with mountainous remnants lying high above intervening valleys. The highest ranges have an altitude of 1,000 feet in the west and about 3,000 feet near the Arkansas line. The topography, then, except on valley bottoms, is rough, the soil usually stony and roads are uncertain. Valuable pine forests cover a part of the Region; fish abound in the rivers; quail, turkey, and deer occur in their natural haunts, which are well-known hunting grounds.

In some respects the Red River Valley Region resembles the Prairie Plains and Arkansas Valley Regions, from which it is completely separated by uplifts. The surface is quite smooth, sloping southward, the highest points having an altitude of 1,000 feet and the lowest about 300 feet. The roughest land is along the border of the Ouachita Region. The structure is simple, consisting of Cretaceous strata and older rocks, which dip for the most part southward. Pleistocene deposits form the sandy bottom land along Red River. Most soils are fertile, though poorly drained at places. Prairie and forest occupy the uncultivated land. The vine rose is a common flower. The population is more southern here than in other parts of the Territory.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

The evolution of industry has not been as rapid in the Territory as the natural resources would seem to warrant. Social conditions have in a way retarded the commercial awakening. Notwithstanding this fact, it seems very probable that the undeveloped resources have been potent factors in bringing about the opening. If the Territory had not abounded in those things which the white man covets, it might have remained longer as a typical Indian country.

I propose to treat the development in a two-fold manner, noting the commercial importance of resources and industries and their influence upon the opening and development of the Territory.



Plate III shows the distribution of the leading railroads. It is an attempt, also, to represent the intensity of travel by shading. At first, railroads were permitted to build through the Territory from north to south and from east to west. They carried thousands of tourists through the region, all of whom were impressed with the appearance of the country and its apparent wonderful possibilities. The verdict went forth that the Indian Territory is an inviting place, one of promise. Not a few of these tourists entered the region later as intruders; some to intermarry. When and where conditions were favourable the railroads extended branch lines, with the result that the country is now well served with this means of transportation.

The principal through lines operate trains on well-ballasted roadbeds and sure time. The old box shanty station buildings are nearly a thing of the past, giving way to modern structures. Traffic is heavy throughout the year. As a whole, railroads are promoting the industrial development of the Territory. They are favourably located, especially so with respect to coal and agricultural lands. May we not conclude that the presence of railroads in the Territory has also hastened the time of opening?

Thousands of white men have gone to the reservations for fishing and hunting. Entering over the "Katy," Iron Mountain, "Frisco" or the Choctaw, they traversed beautiful stretches of Indian country while *en route*, found myriads of fish in the Neosho, Illinois and other rivers, and quail, turkey, deer, and an occasional bear in the woodlands. Game and landscape views served as advertisements for the further entrance of whites. Likewise, the attention was directed to other resources, but most noticeably to the forest.

Timber has been utilized in the production of ties, fence-posts, lumber, and for export. Formerly many thousands of walnut logs were cut from the forest without permission and exported. Now a nominal price is paid for such timber and log yards are seen at railroad towns located near timber land. The latest move by the United States Forest Service is to set aside two forest reserves, one in the Ozark and the other in the Ouachita Region.

We should not overlook the fact that all of the Territory lies in the rail-belt and that the day of the free entry of desirable public domain is a thing of the past in the United States.

Agriculture has been developed under several forms in the Territory, cattle-raising being the first to receive attention in a large way. For many years the broad, smooth prairies of the Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw Nations have supported large herds owned by

whites. Pasturage begins early in the year and continues until late in the fall. The only serious drawback to the profitable pursuit of the industry is Texas fever. Cattle, horses, mules, and swine are the leading farm animals. Dairying is slow in assuming importance. Cream when used is shipped in from the north.

Prairie hay is a valuable product in the Cherokee Nation. Sometimes two crops are cut from the same land each year and shipped to points in Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Baled hay is hauled to stations from distances of six miles or less and either stored in large barns or loaded directly onto cars. The annual shipment from each of certain small towns along the Iron Mountain and Katy railroads is a thousand cars or more. Alfalfa and timothy are being successfully introduced.

The Territory grows a variety of farm crops. Cotton and corn have been cultivated here for three-quarters of a century, yet the past few years have seen a large increase in acreage and an advance in price of land. The cotton belt extends northward to and somewhat above Broken Arrow, Claremore, and Wagoner, and southward to and across Texas. The yield in the Territory varies from one-half to one and one-half bales per acre, the latter on rich bottom land. Corn is rotated with cotton, oats, wheat, and potatoes. It is a sure crop in each Nation. The prize corn at the St. Louis Exposition was raised on Arkansas Valley bottom land near Fort Gibson. Two crops of potatoes may be grown on the same ground each year. When potatoes meet ready sale the profits are large. Just now many tracts of prairie land are being broken, and timber is being cleared for farming purposes. The appearance of the country is undergoing rapid change, the Nations first to receive allotments leading in agricultural development. Elevators, cotton gins, compresses, and cotton seed mills have been installed where needed. Fruit-raising has considerable importance.

In like manner, rural life is improving. Mail routes are being established; streams bridged; and roads laid out along section lines, except where this plan is not feasible. Wire fences prevail on the prairies and the rail and picket fences in timber regions. As regards farm machinery, the cultivator and self-binder have nearly supplanted the single shovel and cradle. The box house and the single and double log house of the country are being supplanted with modern dwellings.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

Indian Territory is the Pennsylvania of the west. It contains fair grades of stone, an abundance of material suited to the manu-

facture of brick and cement, no less than eight distinct beds of coal and large storage of oil and gas (Plate IV).

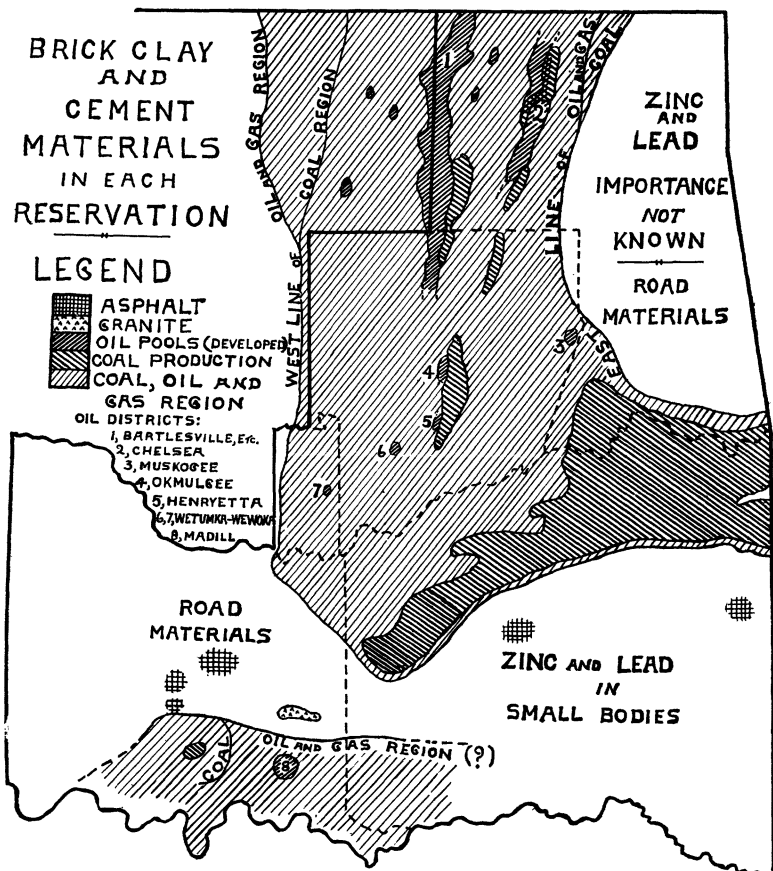


PLATE IV.

Coal mining* on a commercial scale began near McAlester about thirty years ago. Since that time the annual production of the Territory has occasionally reached 3,000,000 tons. It is soon to be greatly increased. The product, a high-grade bituminous, is rendered accessible to the States by shipment over the Rock Island, Iron Mountain, Katy, Frisco and other railroads. The leading coal-producing centres are McAlester, Wilburton, Hartshorn, Chambers, Coalgate, Phillips, Henryetta, and Schultze. A line of production

* Taff, Bull. 260, U. S. G. S.

100 miles in length extends from near McAlester eastward into Arkansas.

Plate IV indicates the extent of the coal region, a considerable

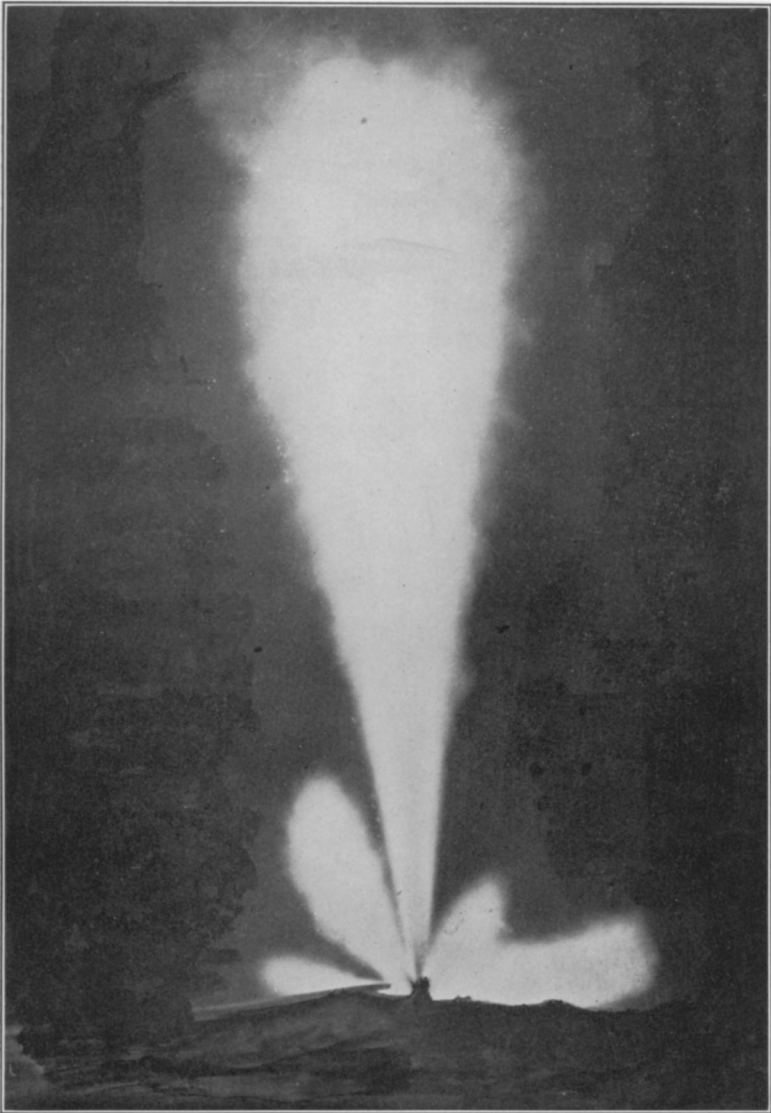


FIG. 3.—BURNING GAS WELL.

part of which contains deposits of economic importance. For reasons known to all, the Government has found it necessary to

segregate the most valuable coal lands, withholding them from entry.

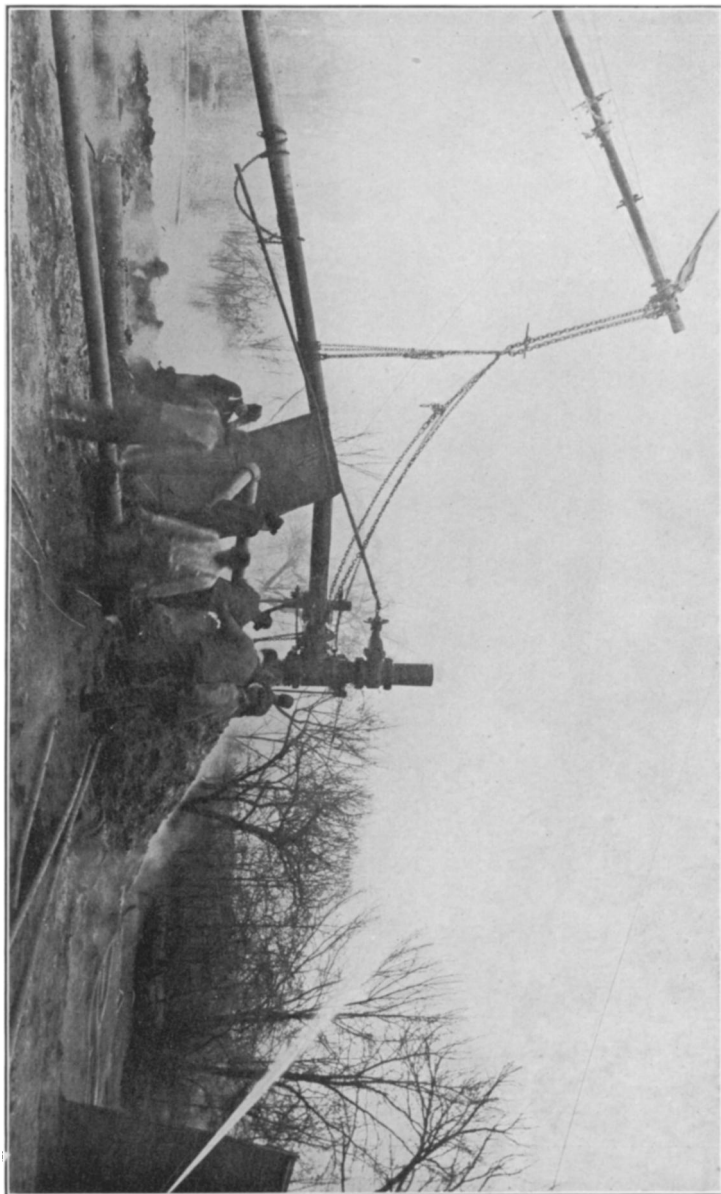


FIG 4.—PLACING STEEL HOOD ON GAS WELL.

Asphaltic deposits* of economic importance, and possibly more than the equal of similar materials found at a few other places in the

* 1 Pt. 1. Twenty Second Ann. Rept. U. S. G. S.

United States, occur in the Arbuckle and Ouachita Regions. They lie mostly in joint planes and fault lines, having come up from lower levels. At places the asphalt impregnates the sandstone or limestone walls, as the case may be. Asphalt lands, as with coal, have been segregated; hence their development is largely a thing of the future.

Small seepages of oil were discovered near Dewey and Chelsea about seventeen years ago. The first strong well was drilled in at Bartlesville a little later. The system of land tenure in vogue and Government control retarded prospecting until allotments subject to lease and sale were made. From that time until 1906 the development was remarkably rapid, more so than with other industries. Then allotments were being made in the oil regions of the Cherokee Nation, and the struggle for ownership of oil land became intense. Drilling has proved the presence of oil pools in each Nation, and the wells thus brought in can be numbered by the thousands. As one result, a nearly continuous line of derricks and strong wells now extends from near Caney, Kansas, southward past Copan, Dewey, Bartlesville, Ramona, and Tulsa to the famous Glenn Pool near Sapulpa, a distance of about 75 miles. Depths to oil here vary from 1,100 feet on the north to from 1,500 to 1,700 feet on the south. Many wells flow, in a few cases, 300 or 400 barrels each a day. The maximum flow of a well in Glenn Pool is about 1,000 barrels a day. *Strong gasers* were secured, the best-known one of these being located about five miles north-east of Copan. It is the oft-described Caney Gas well which threw out over 30,000,000 cubic feet of gas a day. It was struck by lightning February 23, 1906, and the flames, until extinguished at great cost, shot upward a distance of 150 feet.

Another oil region lies to the west of Chelsea, extending to and past Aluwe and Coody's Bluff on the north, and to a point west of Claremore on the south. The oil sands in this region lie from 400 to 700 feet below the surface. Drilling is easy and many of the hundreds of wells brought in are now flowing.

Much of the Territory between Chelsea and Bartlesville regions appears to be dry. It is gas-producing at places, as south-west of Lenapah. Further prospecting here may show the presence of other pools, as they are called. Outside the two large oil regions, smaller developments occur at places denoted by Plate IV. Pools occur in Oklahoma also, but mostly in the northeastern part.

Oil and gas resources of the region are sure to become of great importance in brick and cement making, and for general fuel and export purposes. There is over-production at this time, the Stan-

dard taking about 18,000 barrels a day out of a possible production of over 100,000 barrels. Increase in demand would bring a yet larger production and cause the Territory to assume first rank



FIG. 5.—OIL ON A TRIBUTARY OF CANEY RIVER.

in this line in the United States.* The price has declined to about 38 cents a barrel.† Pipe lines connect with the refinery at Whiting, Indiana, and large tank farms are located near Copan and Ramona.‡

* Recently a 700-barrel well was brought in three miles southwest of Muskogee.

† It was 43 cents April 18, 1907.

‡ A pipe line to the Gulf is now assured.

The waste of oil is large, extending onto the Verdigris and Caney rivers, which now carry a thick scum of oil to the Arkansas River. This affects fish, water fowl, and also transportation where small streams are forded.

Zinc and lead occur at places in the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations, the most promising locality being in the northern part of the Ozark Region. Here extensive prospecting is under way, with fair promise of favourable results. The structure is similar to that of the near-by Joplin and Galena districts. If the Ozark Region is found to contain paying quantities of these ores, the Full Bloods' last natural home will soon be a thing of the past.

In general, the industrial awakening in the Territory is very apparent. The increase in population is and has been rapid. The estimated growth was 117 per cent. from 1890 to 1900, and even more during the past six years. Towns are taking on city ways in structure, form of transit, and business. Pavements, water works, electric lighting, and street cars are among their improvements. National banks in the largest towns would do credit to an eastern city. The following outline indicates the growth of the leading towns:

NAME	POPULATION IN 1900	PRESENT POPULATION
Ardmore	5,681	10,000
Bartlesville	691	5,000
Chickasha	3,209	10,000
McAlester	3,479	9,000
Muskogee	4,254	20,000
Tulsa	1,390	10,000

The opening and development of the Territories by people from the north is resulting in better things for the States. Already the resources and problems of Arkansas, Louisiana, and other southern States are becoming better known and understood in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska, from whence came the immigrants. We may expect a further industrial awakening in Arkansas, especially, as conditions advance in the Territory. The two are alongside, and the time is near at hand when the south may receive even larger additions in population from the northwest.

THE NEW STATE.

Oklahoma is to be the name of the united Territories, when statehood is conferred. A convention now in session is endeavouring to frame a suitable constitution, one acceptable to Congress and the

President. The task is a large one, but only a final act in the making of an American State. This convention was preceded by others held for various purposes and by each Nation and kind of people. At first statehood was opposed; then separate statehood desired, and, finally, the name of the new State arose for consideration.

The Indian Territory part of the new State is especially diverse in social conditions, containing the educated and illiterate of three species of people. From this cosmopolitan body the crucible of civilization is to reduce a citizenship. Graft, now prevalent, is to be supplanted by substantial credit and commercial honour. The white man is to rule, and the problem of the Indian is largely solved in his amalgamation. He has given his blood and a few strong traits to the new civilization. This was and is his destiny. The negro is to remain a problem in social, educational, and industrial matters.

Oklahoma Territory's history is in many respects similar to that of the Indian Territory. Most, but not all of its reservations have been opened to whites and improved. The most notable exception is the Osage Nation, which at this time contains many wealthy Indians, a few of whom remain in their blanket garb.

As regards resources, the Territories supplement each other, and are sure to become a great State. The trend of political matters is likely to be democratic, leaning towards the south. Educational interests are advancing in both Territories, with a thriving State University* at the head of the school system.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AFRICA.

WHITE WOMEN ON THE CONGO.—The Fathers Superior of the Catholic Mission on the Congo have held a meeting at Leopoldville and submitted various suggestions to the Government, among which is one that is attracting special attention. The Fathers ask that, in the interest of the officials and agents of the State and of the State itself, the Government hereafter encourage its employees to bring their wives with them to the Congo. They say they are convinced that this policy will be to the advantage of the work of civilization and that the quality of the white personnel will thereby be improved. They also ask that the Government pay the expenses of conveying the wives of its employees to the Congo, and that no clause in the contracts with employees place any obstacle in the way of establishing family life among the servants of the Government in the Free State. They believe that this will evoke new sympathies for the work

* Dr. C. N. Gould, Professor of Geology in the University of Oklahoma, has made several trips in the Territory with the writer, and assisted very materially in the gathering of data for this paper.